

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 120 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, PICKETT, BARRAR, BAKER, BISHOP, BOBACK, V. BROWN, BROWNLIE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, CUTLER, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, GRELL, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KIM, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, MATZIE, McNEILL, MILLARD, NESBIT, NEUMAN, PAYNE, READSHAW, ROSS, ROZZI, SAMUELSON, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SIMS, SONNEY, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD, McCARTER, FARINA, MAJOR AND MAHONEY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2015 as "Brain Injury Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain  
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes  
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury is an injury to the brain  
7 secondary to trauma, stroke, postsurgical complications,  
8 aneurysm, high fever, infection, near drowning, near  
9 suffocation, near electrocution, poisoning and other conditions  
10 which interfere with delivery of blood or oxygen to the brain;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, There are approximately 10 million Americans living  
13 with acquired brain injury, including stroke; and

14 WHEREAS, Brain injury due to trauma may be caused by a direct

1 blow to the head or being shaken violently and may be caused by  
2 falls, motor vehicle crashes, bicycle accidents, sports and  
3 recreation injuries, shaken baby syndrome, gunshot wounds and  
4 assaults; and

5 WHEREAS, The signs and symptoms of traumatic brain injury can  
6 be subtle and may not appear until days or weeks after the  
7 injury or may even be missed; and

8 WHEREAS, Mild traumatic brain injury is often underdiagnosed  
9 or misdiagnosed, with symptoms not always immediately apparent;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of  
12 disability and death from birth to 40 years of age; and

13 WHEREAS, The cost of treating, rehabilitating and caring for  
14 the victims of traumatic brain injury in the United States is  
15 approximately \$30 billion each year; and

16 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
17 estimates that 25% to 87% of inmates have a history of traumatic  
18 brain injury; and

19 WHEREAS, A study found that 20% of the juvenile justice  
20 population has a history of being unconscious for 20 minutes or  
21 more due to a traumatic brain injury; and

22 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are 50,000 to 125,000  
23 mild traumatic brain injuries, commonly referred to as  
24 concussions, resulting from sports and recreation accidents in  
25 Pennsylvania every year; and

26 WHEREAS, Nationally, children and youth 5 to 18 years of age  
27 account for approximately 2.4 million sports-related emergency  
28 room visits for traumatic brain injury annually; and

29 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all brain injuries are  
30 concussions from trauma, affecting more than 47,000

1 Pennsylvanians; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 130,000 Pennsylvanians are living with a  
3 long-term disability resulting from traumatic brain injury; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 50,000 Pennsylvanians are treated and  
5 released from emergency rooms for traumatic brain injury  
6 annually; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 32,000 Pennsylvania children under 21  
8 years of age have a medical history that includes a  
9 hospitalization for traumatic brain injury; and

10 WHEREAS, Brain injury is the signature injury of those  
11 military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of the leading  
13 research centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for  
14 Brain Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the  
15 Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma  
16 Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center  
17 for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of  
18 Philadelphia; and

19 WHEREAS, Three organizations in this Commonwealth  
20 specifically devoted to brain injury include the Brain Injury  
21 Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., the Acquired Brain Injury  
22 Network of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Brain Injury  
23 Coalition, and two organizations with a strong focus on brain  
24 injury include the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania and  
25 the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association; and

26 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has agencies with a specific focus  
27 on brain injury, including the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory  
28 Board of the Department of Health; and

29 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has several government programs  
30 that administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and

1 community support programs, including the Department of Health  
2 Head Injury Program and the Office of Long Term Living CommCare  
3 Waiver Program; and

4 WHEREAS, The best approach to the silent epidemic of brain  
5 injury is to promote the awareness, prevention and treatment of  
6 brain injuries; and

7 WHEREAS, Brain injury prevention and access to necessary  
8 treatment and services can be promoted through community  
9 education and a public awareness campaign; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
11 month of March 2015 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in  
12 Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
14 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut  
15 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; to the Disability  
16 Rights Network of Pennsylvania, 1414 North Cameron Street, Suite  
17 C, Harrisburg, PA 17103; to the Acquired Brain Injury Network of  
18 Pennsylvania, 2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446; and to  
19 the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, 777 East  
20 Park Drive, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111-1754.